



# “Understanding EU citizenship: from the past to the present”

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 11:30 - 13:30h**

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom,  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 71,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

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**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN  
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.  
European Dialogue





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Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Brussels

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### ABOUT THE EVENT

« *Citizenship is hereby established. [...] Citizens of the Union shall enjoy the rights and be subject to the duties provided for in the Treaties.* », stipulates Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

However, do we as European citizens really know what the concept of citizenship means for us today and which concrete rights it entails apart from voting on 26 May ?

As there remains still much to do in the field, we take the opportunity to put a spotlight onto EU citizenship shortly after Europe Day and only ten days before the European elections.

Introduced with the Maastricht Treaty under Art. 20-25 TFEU in an attempt to bring European citizens closer to the EU and to forge European identity, EU citizenship has evolved steadily since 1992. Following the British vote to leave the European Union on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, questions of EU citizenship regained prominence as well.

However, EU citizenship is often too complex or too vague for many citizens. While a majority of Europeans confirm they are aware of their rights as citizens of the European Union, they would also like to know more according to a Eurobarometer survey (March 2018).

In order to understand the essence and scope of application of the supranational EU citizenship concept, one has to take into account different elements : the Treaty framework, the derivative character of Union citizenship and its implementation through secondary law. The different economic, social, civic and political rights conferred by EU citizenship are therefore as heterogeneous as the different fundamentals it is built on.

This lecture-debate on EU citizenship, given by an expert in the field and consultant to the Italian Embassy in the UK, aims to explore the legal dimensions of Union citizenship and to give a brief overview of its development in the last 15 years. In view of current Brexit negotiations, special attention will be paid to the question of EU citizenship in the context of withdrawal from the EU.



## EVENT SCHEDULE

11:30 Welcome

**Thomas Ilka**, Director European Dialogue,  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Brussels

**Daniel Kaddik.**, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum (ELF)

11:45 **“European citizenship, free movement and the Brexit case“**

**Speaker:**

**Dr Francesca Strumia**, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield and  
Visiting Research Fellow, Collegio Carlo Alberto Turin

**Commentator:**

**Maarten De Groot**, European Programme Officer, Democracy International

**Moderator: Carmen Descamps**, European Affairs Manager,  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Brussels

12:30 Q&A

13:00 LUNCH BUFFET

13:30 END OF THE EVENT

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An event organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF). Supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Co-funded by the European Parliament.

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## Speaker



### **Francesca Strumia**

Francesca Strumia is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield School of Law, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Collegio Carlo Alberto in Turin. She is a qualified lawyer in Italy and the US. Prior to joining the University of Sheffield she practiced law in London and Milan, and taught law at the University of Turin. She received her SJD from Harvard Law School in 2009. Francesca's research focuses on EU law and on international and comparative migration law, with a particular focus on the law on free movement and the theory of supranational citizenship. She has published several articles and two books in these areas.

## Commentator



### **Maarten de Groot**

Maarten de Groot is European Programme Officer at Democracy International, a civil society organisation campaigning for more direct democracy and citizen participation at all political levels. Previously, he worked as Campaign Coordinator for The ECI Campaign on the reform of the European Citizens' Initiative. Before that, he was Vice-President and External Relations Director in the 2016-2017 international board of AEGEE / European Students' Forum. Maarten has a background in political philosophy and his main passion is the struggle for democracy across borders, which is inextricably connected to the question of transnational citizenship.

## Moderator



### **Carmen Descamps**

Carmen Descamps is European Affairs Manager at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. She analyses political developments in the EU, publishes policy analyses and liaises with the Foundation's network of national and European stakeholders. Before moving to Brussels, she worked for the Institute for European Politics in Berlin and has been in the field of political education. Carmen has a background in European studies and political science from Sciences Po Paris and Freie Universität Berlin.



## PARTICIPANTS

Family name	Name	Organisation
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Arnu	Florence	Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone de Belgique
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Bucuras	Ioan	EURACTIV
Castro	Marcos	
Cichuta	Jakub	KU Leuven
Clark	Ian	
Coen	Martin	Ehlers Ehlers & Partner
Colova	Zlatimira	EP
Dawari	M. Iqbal	YFPF
De Keyser	Danny	ALDE-Party
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Fievet	Benjamin	LYMEC
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Kowalska	Magdalena	
Lehrke	Niklas	Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU
Libiszewski	Jakub	Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) Secretariat



Maillot	Maxime	Committee of the Regions
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## NOTES